

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRESIDENTIAL AND EXECUTIVE
OFFICE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that as one of its last actions this historic 104th Congress will pass the Presidential and Executive Office Accountability Act. In one of its first legislative actions, this Congress took the unprecedented step of making itself subject to the same laws that govern private citizens and businesses. Now, this legislation, which I introduced, will make the White House obey those laws, too.

When the President signs this bill, the last plantation where American civilians toil beyond the reach of some of the basic labor and employment laws imposed on private enterprise will have fallen. As a result of the Congressional Accountability Act and this legislation, the political branches of government will be required to wrestle with the same knotty problems that private businesses face every day. They will face compliance with the same laws and edicts imposed on all Americans.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, the bill we are passing today is not nearly as strong as the bill this House passed by a vote of 410 to 5 on September 24, 1996. It has been watered down in a number of areas, mostly as a result of administration pressure. Unlike Congress and the private sector, the White House will have the option of following the Federal sector version of some of these employment laws. That is, rather than obey the same law as the legislative branch and American businesses, the President may take advantage of special variations of those laws that apply to the executive branch.

Some very important provisions have been stripped altogether. One was a long overdue revision of the definition of "special government employee." These special government employees—who often serve without pay—are subject to conflict-of-interest statutes and financial disclosure requirements. Such checks on the activities of volunteer advisers to the President and White House employees are indispensable for safeguarding the integrity of governmental processes and decisions. Yet ambiguities in existing law were exploited by the Clinton White House and Justice Department to hold that Harry Thomason, whose questionable activities have been documented in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight's report on the Travelgate scandal, was not a special government employee.

The President needs his personal and confidential advisers, but the American people need to hold such people accountable. Harry Thomason and other political operatives used this White House like a personal office annex. He should have been accountable to the ethics laws, conflict of interest, and other measures that ensure the integrity of the highest offices in the land. These abuses must be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, the bill this House passed on the 24th would have made it clear that such people are to be considered special government employees. Under that bill, they would have been subject to conflict-of-interest rules and financial disclosure requirements. It would have prevented future abuses. But those provisions have been stripped from the bill we will pass today. When the next Congress convenes, I will again introduce legislation to make future Harry Thomasons accountable to the American people.

Another key provision of the House-passed bill that is not found in the version passed by the Senate required the President to appoint a chief financial officer for the Executive Office of the President. The chief financial officer, which is found in other agencies throughout the Government, would review and audit the White House's financial systems and records. The Travelgate, Filegate, and hearings related to other White House scandals highlighted the shortcomings in this White House's financial responsibility.

We will need to strengthen this law during the 105th Congress. During our hearings last year, we learned that the White House's financial operations lacked structure, so we could not achieve accountability. Sometimes, the White House paid for equipment it no longer needed. Other times, it paid for items that were never delivered. These hearings also revealed other egregious examples of waste and abuse because accounting controls were so poor the White House Communications Agency recently had \$14.5 million in unvalidated obligations. The Department of Defense's inspector general reported that the Agency paid only 17 percent of its bills on time, so taxpayers got stuck for penalties and interest on the other 83 percent of its obligations.

The House-passed bill also included provisions, advanced by Government Management, Information, and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Representative STEPHEN HORN and Representative CHARLES BASS, that would have placed an inspector general in the White House. The White House opposed this provision, even though other Government agencies must comply.

If you can believe it, Mr. Speaker, the same people who put a bar bouncer and political trickster in charge of White House personnel security insisted that they do not need to meet the same oversight standards as the rest of the Government. With the gross mismanagement and lack of accountability that we have uncovered in this White House, I can assure you that I will pursue these matters vigorously in the next Congress.

RELOCATION OF THE FEDERAL
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in regard to the colloquy between Mr.

LIGHTFOOT and Mr. TOM COBURN concerning the relocation of the Federal Communications Commission into the Portals Building, in Washington DC, and enter into the RECORD a letter from the Administrator of General Services Administration about this issue. In addition to summarizing the court proceedings which ruled that GSA reinstate the space procurement and proceed with the planned move for the FCC into the Portals, the Administrator of GSA details the costs associated with any delay in the move.

ADMINISTRATOR,
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, October 7, 1996.

Hon. ROBERT KERREY,

Ranking Minority Member, Subcommittee on
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Gov-
ernment, Committee on Appropriations, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KERREY: I am writing to express my most serious concerns regarding the delay of the consolidation of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at the Portals Complex in Washington, DC. This move was the subject of colloquies on the floors of the House and Senate on September 28, 1996, and September 30, 1996, respectively. Because I do not believe the colloquies reflected critical pertinent information, I would like to request that this letter be added to the RECORD. The Court of Federal Claims issued a specific ruling on this matter that was upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals. Furthermore, a delay of the FCC's relocation will cost the Government over \$19 million annually in rental costs.

It is in the best interest of the Federal Government to consolidate the FCC at the Portals complex for the following reasons:

1. The Federal courts instructed the General Services Administration (GSA) to award a lease at the Portals for the FCC, and GSA has complied with their instructions.

2. GSA signed a 20-year firm-term lease with Portals to consolidate the FCC headquarters. If the FCC is not relocated to Portals, it will cost the Federal Government more than \$19 million annually for each year that the space remains vacant, with no resulting benefits.

3. The FCC is currently located in seven locations in Washington, DC. This has resulted in increased operating costs. Relocation to a consolidated site will eliminate this costly and undesirable condition.

4. The FCC's current space requirements are consistent with their space in the Portals Complex.

5. The Federal Government will pay \$31.99 per rentable square foot (rsf) (\$38.47 per occupiable square foot (osf)) for the FCC lease consolidation. This is below the amount authorized by the Congress (\$32.30 per rsf). In addition, this is at the low end of the rental range in Washington, DC, which is \$29 to \$40 per rsf.¹

¹Note: GSA utilizes two space measurements in lease prospectuses, occupiable and rentable square feet, (osf) and (rsf), respectively. OSF is a national standard for GSA, and is the space which is available for use by an agencies personnel or furnishings excluding hallways, restrooms, and vertical penetrations such as elevators and stairwells. RSF is usually a larger area than osf, and is calculated by measuring from inside wall to inside wall excluding any vertical penetrations.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

6. Both the House and Senate Public Works Committees authorized the consolidation of the FCC headquarters, indicating congressional support for the project.

Since 1987, the General Services Administration (GSA) has attempted to consolidate the FCC headquarters from dispersed locations in Washington, DC. On July 9, 1987, GSA submitted a lease prospectus totaling 260,416 osf for the FCC headquarters. The prospectus was authorized by the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation on September 23, 1987.

Subsequent to the approval of the lease prospectus, the FCC's space needs grew because of new programs such as the Cable Television Consumer Protection Act of 1992. As a result of this growth, GSA canceled the lease procurement on February 10, 1992. At the time of the cancellation, GSA had selected Parcel 49C Limited Partnership (Portals) as the successful offeror. The Parcel 49C Limited Partnership sued GSA because of the canceled lease procurement. On February 28, 1994, the Court of Federal Claims ruled in favor of 49C Limited Partnership, and returned the lease procurement to the point prior to lease award. In response to GSA's argument that resolution was necessary to accommodate the FCC's space needs, the Federal Circuit ruled specifically that rescission was not in the public interest and would "result in further, unnecessary expenditures of Government resources," and that the existing award could accommodate the FCC's prior and future space needs. GSA appealed the ruling, and on August 1, 1994, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld the Court of Federal Claims ruling.

On August 12, 1994, GSA awarded a lease to Parcel 49C for 260,416 osf, consistent with the fiscal year 1988 lease prospectus and in accordance with the court ruling. GSA negotiated a second lease reflecting the FCC's expanded requirement. This second lease would only be effective, following the approval of the Public Works Committees of the House and Senate. On September 23, 1994, GSA submitted a lease prospectus for 545,076 osf to meet the entire estimated FCC requirement. The House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, authorized 450,416 osf for the FCC headquarters on September 26, 1994, and October 10, 1995, respectively.

Because of the unacceptable cost implications of not moving the FCC to the Portals, we are continuing to explore alternative methods of paying for the FCC's relocation costs. It may well be that we can reduce the costs of moving and of fitting out the Portals Complex, and we will work with the FCC to try to reduce those costs while making sure that the FCC can function effectively at the Portals. GSA will report back to the Subcommittee when the new Congress convenes.

If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. David Bibb, Deputy Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, on (202) 501-1100.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. BARRAM,
Acting Administrator.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1996 INDUCTEES TO THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP HALL OF FAME

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding achievement by a select group of Chicago area business people. I am proud to salute the entrepreneurs and founders of small and medium sized businesses on their induction to the 12th Annual Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame, which was held on Thursday, October 10, 1996, in Chicago, IL.

The Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies in the College of Business Administration at the University of Illinois at Chicago cofounded and sponsored the Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame honoring outstanding business leaders whose spirit helps keep America's business community strong and vital. In addition, I would like to commend the many cosponsors in the business community who have lent their considerable prestige and resources to making this hall of fame a success.

Today I would like to congratulate these business leader inductees, each of whom is listed below, for using their imaginations to foster an excellent program which enhances the quality of higher education and underscores the value of entrepreneurship in America.

The 1996 inductees include: Melvina Bechina, Thomas Burrell, Michael T. Clune, Philip J. Cooper, Walter G. Cornett III, Patrick J. Evans, John S. Gates, Jr., Emilio Gervilla, Hossein Jamali, Francois Sanchez, James Hanig, Letitia Herrea, Joe Jemsek, Edward Kaplan, Leonard H. Lavin, Michael Levy, Sandra Goeken Martis, William Merchantz, Ralph G. Moore, David W. Mulligan, Christopher C. Multhaupt, Irv Shapiro, Joe Silverberg, Gene Silverberg, Richard A. Stein, Shari K. Whitley, and Phil Yeager.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend these entrepreneurs who have been such an inspiration in my community.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH COCCIA, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 4, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joseph Coccia, Jr., the recipient of the 1996 Italian Tribune News Columbus Day Community Service Award. Mr. Coccia will receive the award from the executive director of the annual celebration.

As we all know, Mr. Speaker, Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of a New World. Columbus' exploration represented a service to the world far greater than he ever knew. He discovered a New World which would eventually evolve into the world's greatest democracy.

Each year, the Italian Tribune News rewards a deserving individual with the Columbus Day Community Service Award, in recognition of Columbus's service to humanity.

This year, Joseph Coccia, Jr., will be honored with this award. Mr. Coccia was born in Newark, NJ, to Italian immigrant parents, in the midst of the Great Depression. He was educated in the public school system until he entered the Army in 1951 and served his country in the Korean war.

After returning from Korea with an honorable discharge in 1953, he married his childhood sweetheart, Elda Soriano. Together, the Coccias have five wonderful children.

In 1961, Mr. Coccia opened his own real estate agency and developed it into a successful and prosperous enterprise. Mr. Coccia was so grateful for this success, he felt compelled to share his prosperity with the community by donating both time and money to various local charities and organizations.

For example, Mr. Coccia is an energetic supporter of local law enforcement. He was the nucleus of a successful fundraiser to purchase 144 bulletproof vests for the Kearny Police Department. In 1979, in recognition of his generosity, he was awarded a Silver Honorary Membership in PBA Local 21. He was the first civilian in 70 years to receive this award.

Mr. Coccia is also a charter member and past president of the Kearny, NJ, Chapter of UNICO National, as well as past national president of UNICO. As the national president, he pioneered programs designed to assist the mentally disabled and was the recipient of the Dr. Anthony Vastola Medal—the highest honor awarded by UNICO. Mr. Coccia was also honored by the former Consul General of Italy for his invaluable assistance following catastrophic earthquakes in Italy during the late 1970's.

Today, Mr. Coccia serves as secretary for the New Jersey Cavaliere Association, trustee for the Catholic Youth Ministries, a member of the Board of Governors at West Hudson Hospital, president of the West Hudson/South Bergen Chamber of Commerce and member of the Marconi Fraternal Association.

Joseph Coccia is truly deserving of this distinguished award, Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to rise in recognition of the vast array of contributions that Mr. Coccia provides to our community, in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF HERBERT STOKINGER

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in honor of an outstanding citizen from the State of Massachusetts, who is deserving of our congratulations on the forthcoming celebration of his 90th birthday.

Herbert G. Stokinger has been an outstanding and dedicated resident of Milton, MA. For the past 66 years he has been devotedly married to his lovely wife Esther and is a member of the Milton Academy Class of 1924, and Boston College Class of 1928.

Herbert was director of Milton Academy Boys' Sports and Physical Education, from 1928 through 1971. He was the coach of varsity football, basketball, and baseball, and has been inducted into the Massachusetts Football